

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A storage area network (SAN), comprising:
one or more host servers, wherein one of the host servers comprises a backup
5 server;
a plurality of storage devices;
a SAN fabric comprising one or more fabric devices configured to couple the one
or more host servers to the plurality of storage devices;
wherein one or more of the host servers are configured to store primary data on
10 one or more of the storage devices, and wherein backup data of the
primary data is stored on one or more of the storage devices;
wherein one or more of the storage devices comprise one or more archival storage
devices, and wherein the backup server is configured to initiate a server-
free backup through the SAN fabric of said backup data to one or more of
15 the archival storage devices.
2. The SAN as recited in claim 1, further comprising a data mover, wherein
the data mover is configured to copy the backup data to the one or more archival storage
devices in response to a server-free copy command.
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3. The SAN as recited in claim 1, wherein the backup server is configured to
copy primary data from one of the one or more storage devices to another of the one or
more storage devices to create a backup copy of the primary data.
- 25 4. The SAN as recited in claim 1, wherein the backup server is configured to
initiate a third party copy (3PC) function to create a backup copy of the primary data.
5. The SAN as recited in claim 1, wherein the backup server is configured to
update a backup database in response to the completion of the server-free backup to the
30 archival storage devices.

6. The SAN as recited in claim 1, wherein the backup data is stored on disk drive type storage devices.

5 7. A method, comprising:
identifying backup data to be copied to an archive storage, wherein the backup data is a backup of primary data in a storage area network (SAN);
freezing the backup data to prevent the backup data from being altered;
while the backup data is frozen, performing a server-free copy through the SAN of
10 the backup data from one or more storage devices storing the backup data to the archive storage; and
after completing the server-free copy, thawing the backup data so that the backup data may again be altered.

15 8. The method as recited in claim 7, wherein a backup server identifies the backup data to be copied to the archive storage, freezes the backup data to be copied, initiates the server-free copy of the data, and in response to the completion of the server-free copy, thaws the backup data.

20 9. The method as recited in claim 7, wherein a data mover copies the backup data to the archive storage devices in response to a server-free copy command.

 10. The method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the backup server updating a backup database in response to the completion of the server-free backup to the
25 archive storage devices.

 11. The method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the backup server copying primary data from one of the one or more storage devices to another of the one or more storage devices to create a backup copy of the primary data.

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12. The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the backup data is stored on disk drive type storage devices.

13. A computer-accessible medium comprising program instructions, wherein
5 the program instructions are configured to implement:

a backup server identifying backup data to be copied to an archive storage,
wherein the backup data is a backup of primary data in a storage area
network (SAN);

the backup server initiating the freezing of the backup data to prevent the backup
10 data from being altered;

while the backup data is frozen, performing a server-free copy through the SAN of
the backup data from one or more storage devices storing the backup data
to the archive storage; and

after completing the server-free copy, the backup server thawing the backup data
15 so that the backup data may again be altered.

14. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 13, wherein the
program instructions are further configured to implement the backup server copying
primary data from one of the one or more storage devices to another of the one or more
20 storage devices to create a backup copy of the primary data.

15. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 13, wherein the
program instructions are further configured to implement a data mover copying the
backup data to the archive storage devices in response to a server-free copy command.

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16. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 13, wherein the
program instructions are further configured to implement the backup server updating a
backup database in response to the completion of the server-free backup to the archive
storage devices.

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17. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 13, wherein the backup data is stored on disk drive type storage devices.

18. A storage area network (SAN), comprising:
5 a plurality of storage devices configured to store primary, and backup data, and comprising one or more archival storage devices configured to store archival data;
one or more host servers configured to store the primary data on the plurality of storage devices, wherein at least one of the host servers comprises a
10 backup server configured to copy the primary data to the plurality of storage devices as the backup data, and wherein the backup server is configured to initiate a third party copy (3PC) to produce the archival data from the backup data;
a SAN fabric comprising one or more fabric devices configured to couple the one
15 or more host servers to the plurality of storage devices; and
means for copying backup data through the SAN fabric to the one or more archival storage devices in response to the backup server initiating a third party copy.

20 19. The SAN as recited in claim 18, wherein the backup data is stored on disk drive type storage devices.